



Retiree Benefit Focus

December 2009

Department of Administration, Office of Group Insurance

Important Notice from State of Idaho About Proposed Rules Regarding Prescription Drug Reimbursement

Dear State of Idaho Retiree:

The Department of Administration intends to introduce Rules that will affect the Office of Group Insurance during the FY2010 Legislative Session. Provisions for Retirees have been included within the rules to help ease prescription drug costs for those that qualify. Please review the information below:

- If approved by the Legislature, a Medicare Prescription Reimbursement Program would become effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2011 for any retiree or dependent spouse age 65 or older who is no longer eligible for health care coverage due to HB 173.
- Reimbursement of prescription medications up to but not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000) per calendar year, per Medicare-eligible retiree and per Medicare-eligible dependent spouse may be available to those who qualify, and whose total out-of-pocket prescription medication expenses have not exceeded the Medicare catastrophic coverage threshold.
- The Medicare-eligible retiree or Medicare-eligible dependent spouse must petition the Office of Group Insurance for reimbursement. The petition shall specifically state the reasons why the director should grant the petition and reimbursement request, including but not limited to evidence that the petitioner has met all of the eligibility criteria above.
- Any reimbursed prescription medication expenses by and through these Rules are considered taxable income to the reimbursed party.
- Changes, modifications or amendments to these rules that affect an individual's eligibility shall not be effective until those changes, modifications or amendments are included in the contract between the respective carrier and the Office of Group Insurance.
- Nothing contained in these Rules creates additional group insurance coverage, policy, contract or benefits, nor does it create any vested right or benefit for any employee, retiree or their dependents.

All retirees participating in the state retiree plan as of January 1, 2009 may qualify for reimbursement. Retirees will receive information on how to obtain petition forms from our office for reimbursement, details of items that will need to be included with application such as receipts, and the appeal process.

Sincerely,

Office of Group Insurance

208-332-1860

800-531-0597

Email: ogi@adm.idaho.gov

Website: <http://adm.idaho.gov/insurance/retired.htm>



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!



As you know, the 2009 Legislature passed House Bill 173. House Bill 173 changed eligibility for participation in the retiree medical plan to no longer include retirees and their dependents who are age 65 or older. The Department of Administration traveled the state during August meeting with our retirees to begin the process of helping you move from the State's plan to the private plan of your choice.

REMINDER! **January 1, 2010** is just around the corner and all State of Idaho Retirees and dependants age 65 or older **will no longer be eligible** to participate in the current plan. If you need assistance in identifying which best meets your personal health care needs you can contact SHIBA; they are still taking appointments. They can be reached at one of the following numbers:

<u>Boise</u>	<u>Coeur d'Alene</u>	<u>Twin Falls</u>	<u>Pocatello</u>
334-4352	208-666-6847	208-736-4713	208-236-6044
or 334-4353	800-488-5725	800-488-5731	800-488-5764

Office of Group Insurance:

1-800-531-0597
(Boise Area: (208) 332-1860)

Return Service Requested

State of Idaho
Department of Administration
Office of Group Insurance
650 West State Street, Room 145
Boise, Idaho 83720-0035



**DO NOT DISCARD Important Information About
Your State Retiree Medical Plans Information**

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